

THE need for more strike power in the forwards was clearly emphasised at Loakes Park on Thursday evening when Wycombe Wanderers lost their second friendly of the season 1-0. Fourth Division opponents Cambridge United proved a hard working side but the Blues had enough chances to score at least three goals.

As expected, there were changes from the team that lost at Wimbledon. Former Marlow striker Leo Markham, who was converted to a central defender at Watford last season, played both up front and at the back while coloured defender Tony

Wycombe Wands 0, Cambridge Utd 1

Report by STUART EARP

White, who had a spell at West Ham, also switched around in the second half.

Once again, Wycombe's defence looked sound and the goal that decided the issue was an absolute beauty. But up front, Wanderers looked woefully weak. Dylan Evans again had to be the target man — not his best position — while diminutive forwards Geoff Anthony and Graham Mackenzie made up the front three.

Anthony's skill is unquestion-

ed but he badly needs support and often on Thursday, he had to hang onto the ball for someone to arrive and help him out. Young Mackenzie showed some neat touches but Wycombe will be without his services as he leaves for college in Cheltenham shortly.

No doubt the position will improve once Tony Horseman returns from holiday but it would be nice to see some more punch and weight in the front line. If such a player is not

forthcoming, the Blues may well have to experiment by using a defender up front. Only when Markham moved into the attack on Thursday did Wycombe begin to look dangerous.

There was plenty of work in midfield and again newcomer Derek Cotterell produced some neat passing although at times he struggled to adjust to the pace of the game.

With several players — John Delaney, Terry Reardon, Mick Holifield and Horseman — still absent, Wanderers are still very much in the early stages of building a team. But on the two showings so far, it seems there must be a place for Dave Bullock. This player has been on the sidelines for too long and his coolness in defence was remarkable on Thursday. Paul Birdseye, too, looked a more mature player and had an excellent game at left back.

The closest Wycombe came to a goal was in the 32nd minute. Anthony, who made a quiet start, hit the crossbar with a deliberate lob which arched over goalkeeper Phil Walker.

The Cambridge goal came in the 43rd minute. Keith Tully sent a superb crossfield ball of some 40 yards to overlapping left back Ray Seary which completely spreadeagled the defence. Tony Horsfall met the cross perfectly at full pace and rammed a header past the stranded John Maskell.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Fuschillo (sub. D. Bullock 45 mins.), K. Mead, L. Markham, P. Birdseye; H. Kennedy, D. Cotterell, D. Alexander; G. Mackenzie (sub. A. White 45 mins.), D. Evans, G. Anthony.

CAMBRIDGE: P. Walker; G. Howell (sub. B. Batson 41 mins.), R. Seary, D. Lyon, S. Fallon; P. Smith, S. Spriggs, R. Shinton (sub. A. Bilbey 45 mins); J. O'Donnell, A. Horsfall (sub. C. Gilder 45 mins.), K. Tully.

Half time: 0-1. **Goalscorer,** Cambridge — Horsfall (43).